



# Maricopa County Animal Care & Control



## *Alternatives To Chaining Or Tying Your Dog*

### **The Law Protects Your Dog**

Chaining or tying a dog encourages aggressive behavior; it is also a dangerous practice that could lead to injury or death of the animal. Each year in Maricopa County, tie-outs account for a significant number of reported deaths due to dogs not being able to reach water or being hanged; countless other deaths go unreported. For the safety and well-being of your dog, the Animal Care & Control of Maricopa County offer the following alternatives to chaining or tying.



Spaying and neutering are strongly advised, as the hormones of an unsterilized dog can greatly increase the escape drive. Male dogs that are easily confined under normal conditions may become frantic to escape when they sense a female is in season. Females in heat may also go to heroic measures to escape. Once your dog learns to get out, it becomes harder and harder to keep it safely at home. Neutering will not only make your dog happier and healthier, it also gives you the reassurance that you are not contributing to the problem of pet overpopulation.

When deciding on the solution that works best for your dog, you need to take several things into consideration. If your dog is small or elderly and easily confined, rarely leaving your side or straying from your property, you have many options, ranging from regular walks on a leash to inexpensive portable exercise pens. If your dog is larger or more active, or of a breed that has a natural instinct to dig, jump, or roam, you'll need to tailor the area of confinement to it as an individual.

### **General Tips**

No matter how hard you try, no matter how high or how sturdy your fence, an escape artist may find a way over, under, or through. Sometimes "getting rid of him" seems like the only answer, but all that does is pass the problem on to someone else.

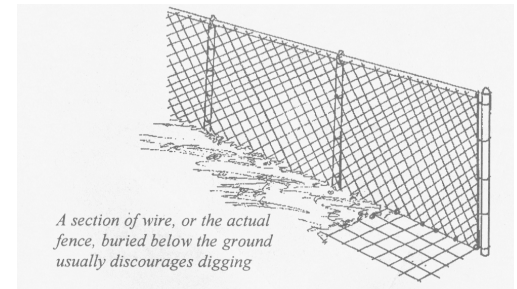
Having a well-behaved dog that stays home doesn't happen by accident. It takes work, ingenuity and commitment. The good news is that for most dogs, you can find the key to keeping them safe at home where they belong.

Many behavior problems, including escaping, can be solved by dog and owner attending basic obedience classes. Formal training creates a strong bond between dog and owner; it also helps to occupy a dog's mind with other things than escape. The Maricopa County area has many different dog training opportunities available to fit the time schedules and budgets of most pet owners.

### **Fencing Solutions For Climbers & Jumpers**

Some dogs, such as terriers, excel in their ability to burrow out of a fenced area. They frequently begin digging for fun, then learn to escape. Placing bricks or heavy stones at the base of the fence may temporarily discourage digging, but the experienced digger will only find another spot to try.

Burying the fence a foot or more below the surface is usually an effective deterrent for diggers; a section of wire fencing laid flat under several inches of earth also discourages digging.

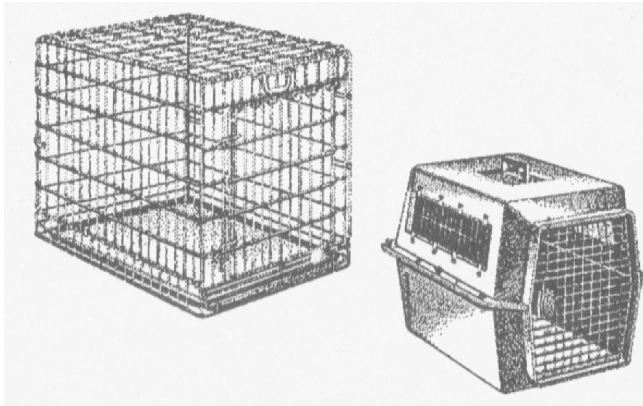


For more information on animal care, behavior or AC&C programs contact (602) 506-PETS or visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov)

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Another solution to this problem is adding an extension to the tops of the fence that leans inward at a 45 degree angle. A climber meets this barrier at the top of the fence and cannot proceed. This extension can also fool the eye of the jumping dog, making it almost impossible for it to accurately judge the height and clear the top of the fence. Sometimes, the best solution for confining a jumper or climber is to replace the existing fence with one of a different type. Block walls will eliminate climbers in almost all instances, and, if of sufficient height, will confine all but the most athletic jumpers.

## An Inside Solution: Crate Training:

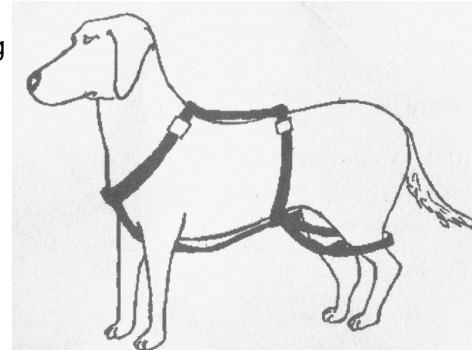


If your yard is not adequately fenced and you are unable to keep your dog confined inside your home because it becomes destructive when left alone, consider crate training as a solution.

Crate training involves teaching your dog to stay quietly in its crate when you are not at home. Most dogs learn to accept the crate as their own "den," and you can relax when you are away, knowing your dog will be safe and your home will be in one piece when you return. In addition to keeping your escape-artist at home, the crate comes in handy when traveling; accustomizing your dog to the crate can also minimize stress when it must be kept confined in this manner at a veterinarian's office or grooming shop. Several different types of crates are available at pet supply stores, feed stores, and many supermarkets. This solution is for indoor use only, and the crate used must be the correct size for the dog. Water should be provided, and there are limits, based on age, on the length of time your dog can remain confined in the crate. Consult with a qualified professional about the proper and humane use of the crate before proceeding. For more information, contact Animal Care & Control Center at (602) 5006-PETS.

## "No-Jump" Harnesses

Some dogs may be convinced not to jump fences by the use of a "no-jump" harness that restricts movement. Be advised that this method doesn't work on all dogs. The harness is worn by the dog while it is outside; it is comfortable enough to allow the dog to move freely, but will prevent it from extending its legs into an effective jumping position. The main drawback to this method is that the harness may be chewed off in a matter of minutes unless the dog supervised. Anti-jump harnesses may be obtained through pet supply stores or catalogs.



## Kennels / Dog Runs

Chain link kennel runs are available in a variety of sizes, and may be obtained at relatively low cost. They are frequently the best choice of confinement for the veteran escape artist. If your dog has a tendency to jump, the kennel may be equipped with a cover. Diggers may be discouraged by placing the kennel on a cement pad or burying a portion of the chain link well underground.

Renters will be pleased to note that chain link kennels may also be obtained as pre-fabricated portable panels. If a kennel run is utilized, be sure that it is situated where the dog will receive plenty of shade and shelter from the elements. Clean, fresh water must be available to the dog at all times. Take extra care to provide your kenneled dog with plenty of playtime inside the house or on a leash so that it will be happy and well-socialized.